

TRANSMISSION OF MPEG VIDEO USING VARIABLE RATE MODULATION

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A system and method for transmitting encoded video signals using a variable rate

5 modulation scheme. In one embodiment a transmitter is provided comprising a system
for partitioning the video into a plurality of streams; a system for determining a priority
for each of a plurality of streams of encoded video data; and a system for assigning a
different modulation rate to each stream of encoded video data based on the determined
priority. Specifically, a lower, more robust, modulation is preferably used for higher
10 priority streams, and a higher, less robust, modulation is preferably used for lower
priority streams in such a way that an average rate is maintained.